Bible Drawer 29 Books

71.2009.085.04669

Curios and Relics

Books

Bible

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.04669

Raritan gallery auctions Lincoln memorabilia

By LOIS MAPLES

An entire convention of Lincoln aficionados is expected to converge at the Classic Auction Gallery in Raritan on Saturday to vie over the bounty offered in an unusual all-Lincoln auction.

More than 250 pieces of Lincoln-related items will be put up for sale, coming largely from the collection of a single New Jersey family whose business bore the name of the craggy-faced president. After collecting for almost 45 years, they are now divesting themselves of their entire collection.

Added to this are other important pieces from diverse sources from all across the country. One of the most important items coming up for bidding is the Lincoln family Bible, circa 1860. The flyleaf is inscribed and ownership declared by Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham. On the reverse of the fly leaf is the book stamp, "A. Lincoln." It is a Cambridge Bible and contains the Lincoln family chart.

Also included are two personal letters, probably at one time pressed within its pages, written to the last known

Photos by Steve Andrascik

Portraits of Abraham Lincoln and his family are part of the memorabilia being auctioned

ANTIQUING IN JERSEY

family owner of the Bible, Mrs. Lincoln Isham, the president's granddaughter. Mrs. Isham was the daughter of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only son of the president to grow to adulthood.

Another interesting item is a belt buckle, fully inscribed on the back, presented to each of the United States congressmen who attended the assassinated president's funeral. Only a very few of these buckles, made of melted down Confederate guns, are known to exist.

For a man who never sat for a portrait in his life, but relied entirely on the comparatively new process of photography, Lincoln's face is everywhere. He was the despair of all artists who had difficulty capturing the rugged essence of his personality.

After his death many portraits were painted, etchings made, drawings executed, all inspired by the existing photographs. These images, including an original photograph by Mathew Brady made at Cooper Institute in 1860, compose the largest group of items. There is an impressive group of original Currier and Ives prints of Lincoln and his family, including "Freedom to the Slaves," "The Assassination of President Lincoln," "The Death Bed of the Martyr President," "The Lincoln Family" and "Lincoln at Home."

There is also an engraving by John Sartain, designed by W.H. Hermans, entitled "The Martyr Victorious," depicting Lincoln being crowned by the angels in heaven and greeted by George Washington. Other images of the rugged, unsmiling face, in scrimshaw, metal and glass, are included. There is even a remarkable portrait done in needlepoint.

Included in the sale are nine full original issues of the Philadelphia Inquirer covering the assassination of the president and the following week of turmoil. There is a full framed front page of the New York Herald covering the assassination and a framed original Thomas Nast newspaper print titled "President Lincoln Entering Richmond."

The 1909 centennial of Lincoln's birth, as well as the years that followed, produced many souvenir items with the image of the president. There are bottles, paperweights, plaques, bookends, postcards, advertisements, tiles and plates.

Also included is a complete set of "Lincoln Lore" bulletins, published from 1930 to 1969 by the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. These bulletins give interesting details about the president's life and would be invaluable to any writer or history buff.

The auction will begin at 11 a.m., with preview prior to the sale beginning at 9 a.m. There will also be a preview on Friday from 2 to 6 p.m.

The Philadelphia Inquirer.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S REMAINS IN INDEPENDENCE HALL.

OUR DEAD PRESIDENT

AN INTERIOR VIEW OF THE RAILROAD CAR CONVEYING THE REMAINS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

An original copy of the Philadelphia Inquirer covering the death of President Lincoln is among the items being sold

CALENDAR

By JOHN T. HARDING

In Westport, Conn., today, there is an antiques show at the Staple High School Field

The 34th annual Chatham antiques show will run Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 20-22, at the United Methodist Church, 460 Main St. in Chatham. Doors open each day at noon.

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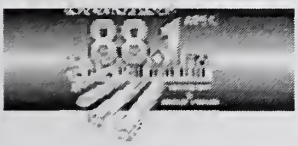


Special Collections

Special Collections consists mainly of primary and secondary materials on African-American themes. The collections serve the research needs of Fisk students and faculty as well as external scholars. Among the rare items there are the American edition of Phillis Wheatley's Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral (1773); examples of Benjamin Banneker's almanacs; a bible especially edited for slaves in the West Indies in 1808; a first edition of Les Cenelles (1845), the first anthology of poetry by blacks published in this country; Clotel, or The President's Daughter (1853), the first novel by an African-American; Harriet E. Wilson's Our Nig (1859), the first novel published by a black in the U.S; nearly 200 printed items from American minstrel shows; and a bible presented to President Abraham Lincoln by free blacks of Baltimore in 1864. Special Collections contains university archives as well as papers and works of scholars and literary figures of national acclaim. Among these are:

Arna Bontemps Collection

Bontemps was head librarian at Fisk University from 1943 to 1964. The collection contains correspondence, library materials, committee and organization items, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

Charles Waddell Chesnutt Collection

Dating from 1864 to 1938, the collection consists of personal and business correspondence, typewritten manuscripts, and published and unpublished writings. Journal and notebooks (500 pages) cover random periods; photographs document the author, his family, and acquaintances such as Anna Julia Cooper, Booker T. Washington, and Joel Spingarn.

Spence Family Collection 1812-1961

The Spence Collection incorporates data coverage of the Spence family migrating to America from Scotland which includes genealogy, correspondence, writings, family materials, documents, financial records, photographs and numerous Fisk related materials.

Biographical Notes
Scope and Content
Inventory List

Alice Coachman Davis Collection

Includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and programs relating to the career of the first black woman to win a gold goal medal in the Olympics.

Thomas Elsa Jones Collection

The Thomas Elsa Jones Presidential Collection consists of personal materials, general correspondence, publications; addresses, manuscripts, reports, speeches and writings, special events, and miscellaneous materials.

Biographical Notes
Scope and Content
Inventory List

Thomas Andrew Dorsey Collection

Contains biographical data, correspondence, sheet music, articles, clippings, phonograph recordings, audiotapes, photographs, and programs.

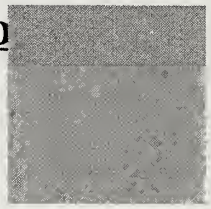
Aaron Douglas Collection

Includes general and personal correspondence (1921-1974) with the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Harmon Foundation; early drawings, sketches, and watercolors; lectures; speeches; programs; photographs; and newspaper clippings (1930-1973).

W. E. B. Du Bois Collection

Contains correspondence relating travels and writings, material relating to the NAACP, manuscript of The Black

(http://www.newburyportnews.com/opinion/x960 -Essex-continues-to-impress)



(http://www.newburyportnews.com)

The sight of that lead ball embedded in a miniature Bible is startling even today.

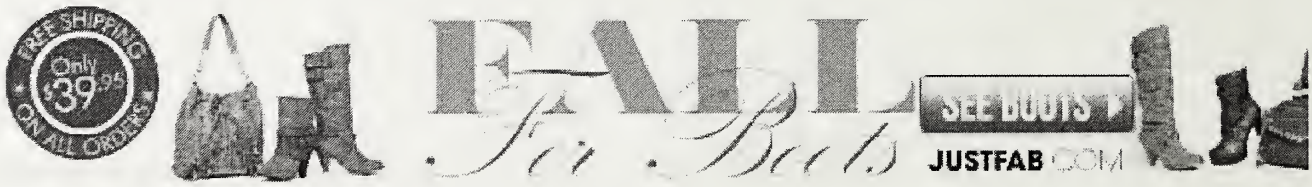
The Bible belonged to a Union soldier named Charles W. Merrill who was shot in battle in 1863. It very likely saved his life. He later wrote of the apparent miracle to President Abraham Lincoln, who responded with a replacement Bible inscribed with a short note.

Both the bullet-riddled Bible and the gift from the president are in the collection of the Peabody Essex Museum and now on display as part of a modest exhibit of materials from its Phillips Library. The library itself, located in the John Tucker House and Plummer Hall across the street from the main museum, is about to undergo an extensive renovation.

While much of the attention lately has been focused on the PEM's blockbuster exhibits and planned expansion, this small collection housed on the ground floor of the East India Marine Hall displays the breadth of the museum's collection. The objects range from the oldest piece of paper money in the United States to a leaf from a Bible printed by Johannes Gutenberg around 1450.

Over the past few years, the Peabody Essex Museum has catapulted from the position of our county's premier museum to one of the greatest museums in our state. That is a major accomplishment in a state that boasts such well-known museums as the Museum of Fine Arts and the Harvard collections.

The PEM continues to impress.



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